

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, all listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 130. (cancelled)

131. (Currently amended) A decorative jewelry item, comprising:

a base member having a hollow interior, a top with an opening therein leading to said hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from said top to said bottom; and

a decorative insert configured and sized in relation to said base member top opening to be inserted, through said top opening, into said hollow interior and entirely positioned below said top;

said decorative insert being fixed within said base member hollow interior with said decorative insert viewable through said top opening.

132. (Previously Presented) The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 131, comprising:

a support member fixed to said base member within said hollow interior; and wherein said decorative insert is captured within said base member between said base member top and said support member.

133. (Previously Presented) The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 132, wherein said decorative insert is fixed to said support member within said base member by a process selected from the group consisting of applying an adhesive, soldering, welding including laser welding, molecular bonding, swaging, bending, and clamping.

134. (Previously Presented) The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 132, wherein:
said decorative insert comprises a plate-like top and a rear projecting pin;
said support member has a hole therethrough for receiving said pin; and
said pin is fixed to said support member by a process selected from the group consisting of applying an adhesive, soldering, welding including laser welding, molecular bonding, swaging, bending, and clamping.

135. (Previously Presented) The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 132, wherein:
said decorative insert comprises a plate-like top and a rear projecting pin;
said support member has a hole therethrough for receiving said pin; and
said pin is fixed within said hollow base member by a retainer affixed to said pin below said support member, whereby said pin is slidable, to a limited extent, and rotatable in said insert support member, for an enhanced visual effect.

136. (Previously Presented) The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 133, wherein:
said support member comprises a plate-like member fixed within said base member below said top.

137. (Previously Presented) The decorative jewelry item as claimed in Claim 134, wherein:
said support member comprises a plate-like member fixed within said base member below said top, said plate-like support member having a hole therein through which said pin may pass.

138. (Cancelled)

139. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing a decorative jewelry item, comprising:
providing a base member having a hollow interior, a top with an opening therein leading to said hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from said top to said bottom;
providing a decorative insert configured and sized in relation to said base member to be inserted through said top opening and into said hollow interior; and
placing said decorative insert into said hollow base member through said top opening and entirely positioned below said top, whereby said decorative insert is viewable through said top opening.

140. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 139, wherein:
said jewelry item comprises a support member fixed to the interior of said base member;
and
said step of placing includes inserting said decorative insert through said top opening between said base member top and said support member.

141. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 139, comprising, after said placing said decorative insert:
fixing said decorative insert to said support member within said base member.

142. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 141, wherein:
said provided decorative insert comprises a plate-like top and a rear projecting pin;
said support member is provided with a hole therethrough for receiving said pin; and
said fixing said decorative insert includes fixing said pin to said support member by a process selected from the group consisting of applying an adhesive, soldering, welding including laser welding, molecular bonding, swaging, bending, and clamping.

143. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 142, wherein:

said provided base member is segmented and has a multiple segmented hollow interior, a top with a multiple segmented opening therein leading to said hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from said top to said bottom;

said provided decorative insert is a multiple segmented decorative insert configured and sized in relation to said multiple segmented top opening to be inserted, through said multiple segmented top opening, into said hollow interior and positioned below said top; and

said fixing said decorative insert comprises inserting said multiple segmented decorative insert within said hollow interior with each segment of said multiple segmented decorative insert viewable through said top opening.

144. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 143, wherein:

said multiple segmented decorative insert has a plurality of said rear projecting pins, one of said pins located adjacent opposite edges of said multiple segmented decorative insert, such that at least one segment of said multiple segmented decorative insert does not have a rear projecting pin;

said segmented base member has a plurality of insert support members fixed to said base member interior for receiving corresponding ones of said plurality of rear projecting pins; and

said fixing said decorative insert comprises fixing each pin to its corresponding insert support member.

145. (Previously Presented) A decorative jewelry item, comprising:

a base member segmented into a plurality of segments, each segment having a hollow interior, a top with an opening therein leading to said hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from said top to said bottom; and

a plurality of decorative inserts, each decorative insert configured and sized in relation to said segment top opening to be inserted, through said top opening, into said hollow interior and positioned below said top, each said decorative insert being fixed within said

segment hollow interior with each said decorative insert viewable through said top opening.

- 146.** (Currently amended) A decorative jewelry item, comprising:
a base member having a hollow interior, a top with a top opening leading to the hollow interior, a bottom, and a sidewall extending from the top to the bottom; and
a plate-shaped insert having an upper decorative surface configured and sized in relation to the top opening to be inserted, through the top opening, into the hollow interior and entirely positioned below the top;
the decorative insert being fixed within the base member hollow interior and being viewable through the top opening.

- 147.** (Previously presented) The decorative jewelry item of claim 146, wherein the plate-shaped insert has a faceted top and a substantially flat bottom.